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Under-fire Romney seeks to win big in key US vote

CONCORD (AFP) - White House hopeful Mitt Romney, aiming to silence doubts that he should be the Republican to take on President Barack Obama in November, is eyeing a big win in yesterday's New Hampshire primary.

The former Massachusetts governor and millionaire venture capitalist hopes to turn a commanding lead in the polls here into a runaway romp to feed momentum ahead of votes in South Carolina next week and Florida on January 31.

"We've worked really hard," Romney said at a polling place in a school in Manchester, New Hampshire, as camera crews broke through barricades set up by police to ensure voters could get in to cast ballots.

Romney won last week's Iowa vote by just eight votes, but a victory here and wins in the next two contests would likely put him on a safe path to become the party's standard-bearer against the embattled Democratic incumbent in the November 6 elections.

His rivals have been hammering the frontrunner, notably tarring him as a callous corporate raider who profited while workers lost their jobs -- an odd attack in a party that trumpets unfettered capitalism as a force for good.

Romney has shot back that his private sector triumphs make him the best person to take on Obama, whose reelection bid is weighed down by the sagging US economy and high unemployment.

Continued on page 6

Seven Harvard Professors to share in Aruba-Harvard Seminar on Energy



ORANJESTAD -- On the 16th and 17th of January the government of Aruba will be host to a unique Aruba-Harvard seminar on energy and sustainable development. Participating in this innovative seminar will be seven distinguished Harvard University professors. These professors will address, in general terms as well as in some detail, the efforts of Aruba with respect to sustainable energy, and the challenges and plans for the future.

The primary objective of the Aruba-Harvard seminar and workshop is to explore creative solutions for Aruba and for the entire region with a focus on the reputation of Aruba as a first class center in Latin America and the Caribbean for scientific study and matters of public policy.

According to the government of Aruba, this seminar is a logical consequence of and a compliment to our Institute for Renewable Energy and our Annual Conference on Green Energy. It becomes a smaller and less formal setting to study these very important topics.

The Harvard delegation will be joined by local Aruban experts and TNO as well as by distinguished professors of the University of Technology in Delft.

Professor Daniel P. Schrag, director of the Center for Environmental Studies at the Harvard University and a member

of the advisory council on science and technology to President Obama is considered the leading world expert on climate change. He has expressed great interest in Aruba and what this island is doing in the area of sustainability and renewable energy and will be one of the members of the group to hold the seminar and workshop here on the 16th and 17th of this month.

Aruba will use this opportunity to also showcase what and how we are contributing in the region with our center for sustainability and renewable energy.

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Utility companies intent on helping us save water and electricity

ORANJESTAD -- The "Hunto Nos Ta Spaar" project is getting the attention of everyone on the island, especially now that the utility companies, WEB and ELMAR with the support of Utilities Aruba N.V. have created a special team of experts sharing their knowledge and expertise. They are intent on helping everyone save precious water and electricity. Their efforts include homes as well as businesses.

They have spread the information on how to save through the media and now they are on the road going from house to house promoting the different ways to save water and electricity. Obviously, each house must make appointments for the visit. This is, indeed, an excellent way to begin a new year...saving money that could be used for many other worthwhile things. The utilities' team stands ready to visit every house on Aruba.

A team of technicians from WEB and ELMAR will visit your home and do an audit. They will review your electrical system, lights, air conditioner, refrigerator and all other apparatus that has an influence on your electric consumption. The technicians will also review your use of water, and all water pipes to ascertain whether there may be leaks, your faucets, toilets and all



other water outlets. The most important matter in all of this is that they will provide each household with expert and free advice on the spot with respect to changes or improvements needed to be made to improve the efficiency of water and electricity.

These experts will share with each household how to make the changes to conserve water and electric energy. The Utility companies also have a television program running in which they illustrate some of the visits they have made to certain homes and how these homes are already saving.

The "Hunto Nos Ta Spaar" campaign was begun last December. While the free home visits began this January.

Interested families should call 525-4200 to request an appointment for two specialists

to visit the home and provide you with the valuable information on how you too can save water and electricity.

'Doomsday' ticks closer on nuclear, climate fears

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Global uncertainty on how to deal with the threats of nuclear weapons and climate change have forced the "Doomsday clock" one minute closer to midnight, leading international scientists said yesterday.

"It is now five minutes to midnight," said Allison Macfarlan, chair of the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists, which created the Doomsday clock in 1947 as a barometer of how close the world is to an apocalyptic end.

The last decision by the group, which includes a host of Nobel Prize winning scientists, moved the clock a minute further away from midnight in 2010 on hopes of global nuclear cooperation and the election of President Barack Obama.

However, yesterday's decision pushes the clock back to the time where it was in 2007.

Fatum to organize three informative sessions on the mandatory Pension Law



ORANJESTAD -- Since the Aruban government ratified the mandatory pension law for the private sector, FATUM insurance company has arranged three gratis afternoon workshops with information on this law. The sessions are especially geared for business owners, Human Resources managers, financial managers, payroll administration offices employee's representatives and all those who still have yet to decide which program they choose to engage regarding their pension plan. FATUM has invited Mr. Edwin Jacobs of the SVB to talk about the AOV Flex law, to further clarify and avoid any incorrect interpretations.

Entrance to the session is completely FREE and attendees will get actualized information by SVB and FATUM executives. At the end of the sessions there will be a time for questioning which will be

answered by SVB and FATUM experts

The afternoon informative sessions will be at FATUM offices, 2nd floor, Unit 12 on the following days:

Friday, January 13, 3 pm – 5 pm

Monday, January 16, 3pm – 5 pm

Tuesday January 17, 3 pm – 5 pm

Attendees can come "on the spot" at the time of the sessions, but it is suggested to make reservations, because seating is limited. For more information and registration, attendees can call FATUM at tel. 582-1111 or e-mail at info@fatum.com

FATUM also reminds the public that it has a professional team ready to give them any assistance about the pension law; those interested can call FATUM to arrange a personal guide through its requirements.

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Olga and Igor have their love blessed on Manchebo Beach



Sunday afternoon just before sunset, Olga and Igor, far from their home in Moscow, Russia, had their long awaited romantic destination wedding. It was a dream come true, when after listening to the personalized, meaningful words of Officiant Diane Keijzer, they sealed their union with a kiss as the sun was setting on Manchebo Beach Resort and Spa's beautiful beach.

The ceremony was not only advice for their marriage, but emphasized lots of love and romance combined with sayings in between of their favorite author, William Shakespeare.

Photographer, Paul Van Driel, captured all the special moments. The very happy couple complimented Nyoka, Manchebo's wedding planner, and her assistant Marrit, who together, flawlessly, prepared a most perfect wedding day.

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Hello, I am Storm

I would like to introduce myself. I am one of the donkeys which have found shelter at the Donkey Sanctuary foundation of Aruba. I have been there for quite a number of years already. For the first six months of my life I roamed around the island, together with my mom. But at a certain moment I could not find her anymore and I was totally on my own.



Fortunately the volunteers of the Sanctuary organization took me in. I love living at the Sanctuary, and I even have a good friend: Riba. We can always be found together, getting into mischief. Riba had a broken hind leg, but she has recovered thanks to the good care of the Donkey Sanctuary. We love playing together. Actually, I am really happy that I am allowed to live at the Sanctuary; otherwise I would have been roaming around on my own. That is very dangerous: not only traffic, but also wild dogs are a menace for donkeys. And of course one would be hungry and thirsty all the time.

This beautiful donkey has been provided with a chip, just like all the other donkeys. On the chip is information about the donkey and its medical history. The donkeys at the sanctuary have a lot of friends with whom they can play all day long. And they love living there: they are well-cared for, they are fed and watered and when they are sick the vet is called. Yes, they are expensive customers for the sanctuary.

The volunteers are trying to cover the various costs with all kinds of activities and the sale of great donkey memorabilia in the shop. Fortunately, there are also visitors who wish to adopt a

donkey, who buy something at the donkey shop or who make a donation. Thus they help support us. Everyone is welcome to visit the sanctuary, which has opening hours from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. and in the weekend from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Entrance is free of charge and one can enjoy a soft drink, a cup of coffee or a refreshing ice cream.

The volunteers of the sanctuary are hoping that someone will adopt this friendly, lovely donkey. Of course the donkey will keep on living at the sanctuary; you only need to pay AWG. 30 per month for the donkey's care. With this amount you help support the sanctuary as well as your own donkey. And you will receive a beautiful certificate and a super T-shirt and your name and photo will be posted on our website. So please call the sanctuary at 593-2933; you can also register via the website www.arubandonkey.org or donate money on bank account number 40.03.025 at the Aruba Bank!

Just do it!

Cas Animal Cont'd

Make a resolution to help by giving a sweet puppy a good home

Last week THE MORNING NEWS put out an urgent call on behalf of Cas Animal for volunteers to help with a litter of 7 newborn puppies needed foster homes until ready for adoption. Kiki Arndt, the founder of the non-profit foundation, who has turned her home into a no-kill shelter for Aruba's abandoned, abused and street dogs and cats, did not want to keep the puppies in the shelter for fear of their exposure to the Parvo virus. As much as one cleans and disinfects, when taking in so many dogs off the streets, it is nearly impossible to keep this pernicious disease out of the facility.

Adult dogs usually tolerate a bout with the virus pretty well, sometimes not even showing symptoms, but it is deadly for young puppies. THE MORNING NEWS has been caring for 2 of them for the past week, as they are best taken in as a pair or more to help them socialize and adapt when they are older.

These 2 adorable puppies are growing steadily and feeding well; getting active and curious, and are very affectionate. They will eventually need permanent homes, something the paper simply cannot handle. Anyone wishing to adopt either or both of these puppies will find them very loving and accustomed to people, as they have come to think of humans as their mother. They will make sweet, wonderful companions for children; a wonderful



Two well socialized puppies will need a loving home

way to teach youngsters responsibility, respect for life and humane treatment of animals. 3 of the litter have already been taken into homes permanently; there are still others to save, aside from several older puppies at the shelter ready, for a good home.

Call Kiki at 742-8732 to assist in this current crisis or simply to adopt one of the nearly 100 dogs she has rescued. You can also report an animal in need of assistance, as she maintains an Animal Ambulance to pick them up; there are few that cannot be rehabilitated from injury, disease or abuse, she has worked miracles.

Kiki's expenses for feeding all the animals she has taken in are astronomical, as well as her veterinary bills. You can also help by paying on her account at the Contr-

eras Clinics in Shaba or Savaneta, or to Veterinarian Natalie Booi at Animal Care Clinic, phone number 582-8382, as well making a donation to Cas Animal Foundation via their CMB Bank account # 25762110 to assist in this important work. Kiki is also attempting to construct a proper facility with onsite clinic on land she has been awarded by the government, and donations will help with this goal.

If you are not an island resident and wish to adopt a dog, Kiki will assist you in the process, as it is much easier to return to the U.S. with an Aruban dog than you might think, and any would be examined and certified by a qualified vet to pass quarantine standards prior to transport.

by Rosalie Klein

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Join Friends of the Handicapped in celebrating their silver anniversary by helping worthy causes



Pick a winner at their Superbowl lottery boards

A small group of annual island visitors that make Aruba their home for most of the winter wanted to "give back" to the island which has provided them with such rewarding moments and opportunities to make friends from all over the U.S., and Aruba. 25 years ago, Friends of the Handicapped

foundation came into existence with the express purpose of raising money for the numerous organizations here that assist the mentally and physically challenged, and now FOTH includes the aged and ill in their annual ceremony of award contributions. Last year 20 local foundations were the beneficiaries of their fundraising efforts; members of FOTH estimated they have distributed over 1.4 million dollars in donations since they began their important work.

3 principal events, along with a weekly passing of the plate during Sunday Mass at the Casa Del Mar, helps them raise the funds they donate each year before departing the island. Everyone can join in by buying a square at their Superbowl Lottery stand found daily

in the CDM lobby; they cost \$20 and offer the chance to win anywhere from \$750 to \$2500.

For many who are regularly on Aruba for Valentine's Day, the only place to be with their significant other is at the FOTH Sweetheart's Dinner Dance at the Radisson Resort, Casino & Spa. A \$90 ticket includes a complete bar "happy hour" beginning at 7:00 PM with hors d'oeuvres, a full 3-course dinner including unlimited wine, a gift for the ladies, dancing to one of the island's most popular bands, and fabulous door prizes. That night is also the drawing for their auxiliary raffle offering extremely valuable prizes such as diamond jewelry, weeks at timeshares, a week of car rental and a whopping \$2000 cash.

The final event will be a high-paying bingo. This is a newly established, but very popular evening taking place at the Seaport Casino with big cash payouts and terrific door prizes as well. This year, it is tentatively scheduled for either the final Saturday or Sunday in



Friends of the Handicapped volunteers

February, FOTH's "last hurrah" of fundraising events. The exact date will be posted in the paper as soon as it is confirmed.

Over the years, the FOTH membership has swelled and shrunk; at present a core group headed by President Art Stark includes Phil Solomon, Sal and Maryann Lacarruba, David Ulmschneider and his wife Tana, Pat and Marsha Finck and Huguette Vatiquette, ably

assisted by Marcelino and Anoushka of Aruba.

THE MORNING NEWS welcomes back this congenial and generous group of dedicated vacationers, who all deserved our gratitude for using their time on Aruba for the good of the less fortunate. They are the sort of people who makes this "One Happy Island!"

by Rosalie Klein

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Under-fire Romney seeks to win big...

Continued from page 1

"I think Mitt Romney has the best chance to beat Barack and that's why I voted for him," Scott Ramsey said outside a polling place here in Concord.

Another voter, who did not give his name, said he cast his ballot for former House speaker Newt Gingrich and emphasized "the important issues are the economy, jobs, reducing the size and scope of government."

A final public opinion poll by Suffolk University in nearby Boston found Romney with 37 percent of likely voters, Representative Ron Paul at 18, Huntsman rising to 16, Christian conservative former senator Rick Santorum at 11, and Gingrich at nine percent.

A vast campaign war chest and high-profile endorsements have fed Romney's image as

the man to beat, but he faces stubborn doubts about his conservative credentials and has been unable to push his nationwide Republican support above 30 percent.

Texas Governor Rick Perry, who skipped New Hampshire to go directly to South Carolina which votes on January 21, and former Louisiana governor Buddy Roemer each had one percent, while seven percent said they were still undecided.

By tradition, the first ballots in New Hampshire were cast shortly after midnight in two tiny towns with a combined turnout of 32 voters, and polls statewide were closed at 8:00 pm.

New Hampshire Secretary of State William Gardner told

the Union Leader newspaper he expected 75,000 to vote in the Democratic primary and 250,000 to cast ballots in the Republican primary.

The GOP primary is closed to Democrats but open to the state's undeclared voters, its term for registered independents who are notoriously unpredictable. Obama faced no serious competition -- his slate of 13 rivals included Craig 'Tax Freeze' Freis and Vermin Supreme, an eccentric who spent the last few days going to Republican rallies and heckling the candidates with a bullhorn.

In South Carolina, Romney may face pushback from conservatives who think he is a flip-flopper and from evangelical Christians wary of his Mormon faith.

Assad vows to crush 'terrorism' with iron fist

DAMASCUS (AFP) - Syria's President Bashar al-Assad blamed foreign plotters yesterday for the deadly 10-month-old protests against his regime and vowed to crush their "terrorism" with an iron fist.

The Syrian National Council (SNC), the largest opposition umbrella group, branded Assad's rare speech an "incitement to violence" that pushes the country closer to a civil war.

In the speech just hours before the UN Security Council was to discuss Syria, Assad denied security forces had orders to fire on civilian protesters, even as activists reported regime gunmen killed 13 more civilians.

Assad said the unrest, which the United Nations estimated last month has cost more than 5,000 lives since March, would only come to an end "when the flow of funds and weapons coming from abroad stops."

"Regional and international parties who are trying to destabilise Syria can no longer falsify the facts and events," the embattled leader said in the televised speech that lasted almost two hours.

Assad said restoring security was the "absolute priority" for Syria and pledged his government would tackle terrorism with an "iron fist," after a Damascus suicide bombing killed 26 people on Friday.

"There can be no let-up for

terrorism -- it must be hit with an iron fist," he said. "The battle with terrorism is a battle for everyone, a national battle, not only the government's battle."

In Istanbul, the head of the opposition SNC, Burhan Ghalioun, expressed alarm about Assad's "dangerous speech in which he stated his determination to use violence against our own people".

"He has cut short any Arab or other initiative to find a solution to the crisis and avoid the worst," Ghalioun said, adding that the speech showed Assad's "determination to divide and push the country towards civil war."

Ghalioun called on the world community to "work to ensure the international protection of Syrian civilians as soon as possible," while urging the Arab League to turn to the UN Security Council for help.

Basma Qadmani of the SNC told the same news conference that Assad's speech was an "incitement to violence" that dismissed the international community and marked a turning point in Syria's relations with the Arab League.

"This is a turning point, a rupture with its Arab environment," she said.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said security forces shot dead at least 13 civilians yesterday, including 10 youths at a peaceful demonstration in Deir Ezzor, north-east Syria.

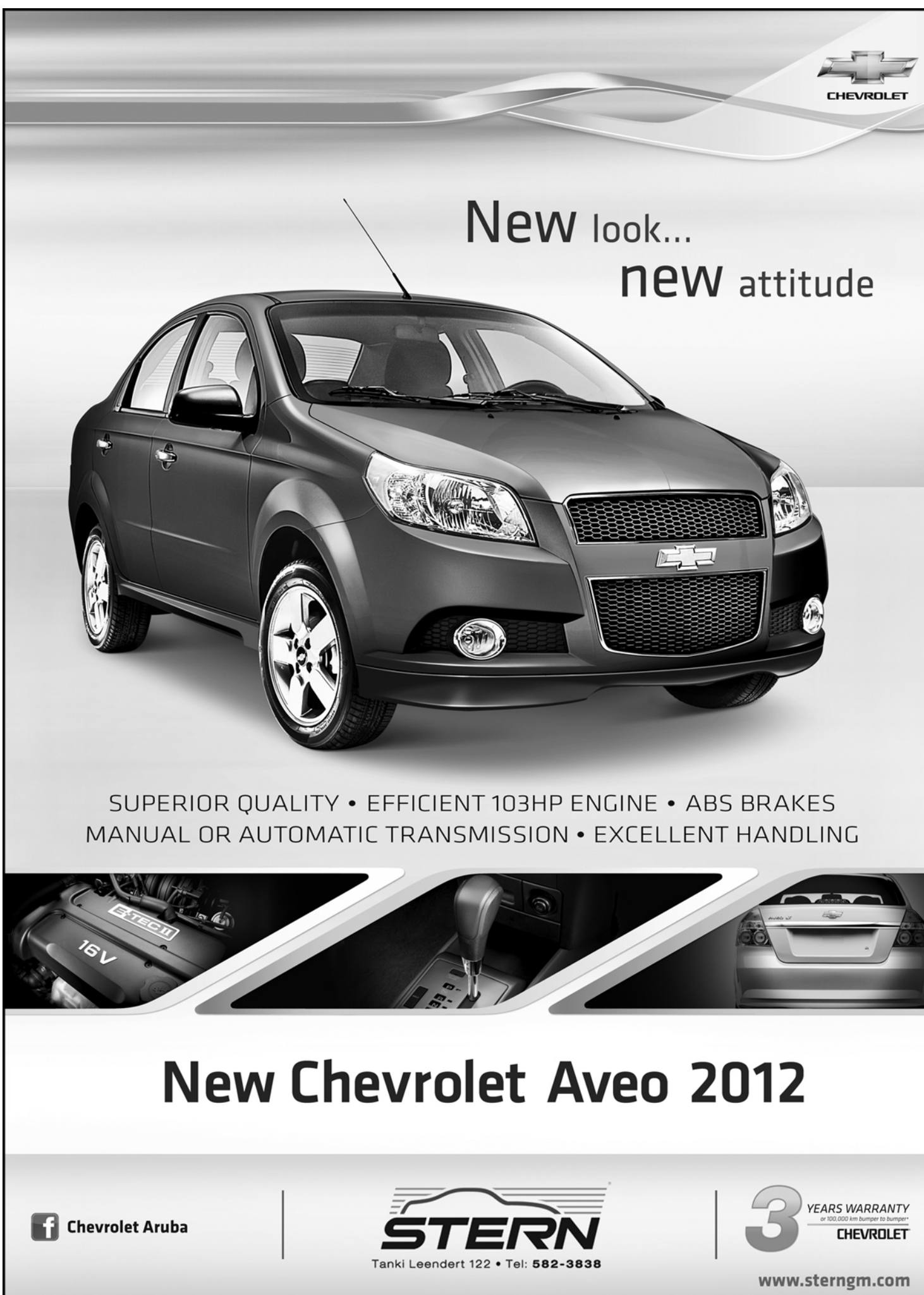


PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti : A Haitian man walks by a tent city on January 10, 2012 near Port-au-Prince, two year after the January 12, 2010 earthquake. UN agencies said yesterday that Haitians face many challenges on the second anniversary of the earthquake that killed more than 200,000 of their people, but those living in camps have dropped dramatically. (AFP PHOTO)

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Coca growers ask Bolivia security forces to leave

LA PAZ (AFP) - Coca producers in the central Bolivian region of La Asunta issued an ultimatum yesterday, demanding that soldiers and police withdraw by the next day or face confiscation of their trucks, tents and clothing.

Bolivian military and police are in the fertile region destroying illegal coca crops that could be used to make cocaine.

Coca crops are a significant income source for many residents of La Asunta.

"The joint task force (of military and police) is not going to return to camp (in La Asunta)," said Mario Miranda, secretary general of the union of coca growers of La Asunta. "We simply want them to withdraw definitely. We will give them until today."

If the government does not withdraw the military and police by today's deadline, "all the property (of the joint task force) will be given to social organizations," Miranda said.

The property consists of 10 trucks, clothing and tents from among the 20 police and military personnel the coca growers claim to have expelled on Sunday.

The facilities occupied by the coca growers union are "not a military post," Miranda said.

Pascual Mamani, the union leader in La Asunta, said the growers are not going to give up more coca "voluntarily."

Bolivian law on coca and controlled substances allows as much as 12,000 hectares of land in approved locations to be used to produce coca for legal purposes.

However, a recent United Nations report said 31,000 hectares of coca plants are being grown in Bolivia.

Deputy Minister of Coca German Loza said La Asunta "is not recognized as a legal zone" for planting coca.

Death toll in Brazil floods, landslide rises to 28

RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) - Torrential rains lashing southeastern Brazil have killed at least 28 people, including 13 buried in a landslide, according to an updated official death toll released late yesterday.

Five more bodies were found yesterday under the rubble of collapsed buildings in Rio de Janeiro state's

northern Sapucaia municipality, bringing to 13 the number fatalities from Monday's landslide.

Colonel Sergio Simoes, the head of the local fire department, said Monday that six adults and two children were found dead in the area.

A family of five who took refuge in a car during the

landslide were still unaccounted for, officials said.

The heavy rains and ensuing flooding are mainly affecting the southeastern states of Rio de Janeiro, Espirito Santo and Minas Gerais, where thousands of people have been evacuated.

Late Sunday, authorities began evacuating 900 people in Rio de Janeiro state's

northern town of Outeiro after a local dike gave way.

The evacuees were being sheltered in schools, tents or by relatives.

The incident occurred in the same area where on Thursday 4,000 people were evacuated after floodwaters fed by torrential rains caused another dike to burst.

Flooding is common in

southeastern Brazil during the rainy season. Nationwide, more than 2 million people have been affected by this year's rains, Brazil's civil defence force says.

Only a year ago, floods and landslides left more than 1,300 people dead or missing in the mountainous region of Rio de Janeiro state.

Health & Living

1,000 South Americans to sue over French implants



PARIS (AFP) - About 1,000 South American women plan to sue French firm PIP over the potentially faulty breast implants the company supplied to about 300,000 women across the world, their lawyer said yesterday.

Lawyer Arie Alimi said about 500 Argentinian women and an equal number from Venezuela were planning to be civil plaintiffs in the probe by French police into PIP and its founder Jean-Claude Mas.

The probe is expected to lead to a court case to be held in the southern French city of Marseille later this year.

About 300,000 women in 65 countries are estimated to have received implants made by Poly Implant Prothese (PIP), which allegedly used an illegal industrial-grade gel that investigators say has led to abnormally high rates of ruptured implants.

More than 450 lawsuits have been filed in three countries, and French police have placed PIP and its 72-year-old founder under investigation.

France, Germany and the Czech Republic have recom-

mended that the devices be removed as a precaution but Britain has said it will not follow suit while Australia says it found no evidence that the implants posed a risk.

Thirteen countries in Europe and Latin America have urged women to have check-ups. In two of them -- Bolivia and Venezuela --- the state is offering operations to have the implants removed, but has not made this a recommendation.

Brazil this week will start listing women who have had implants and identify the type of gel used but the move is not linked to PIP and was decided two years ago, said Jose Horacio Aboudib, the head of Brazilian Society of Plastic Surgeons.

"If in 10 years there is a problem similar to that of the PIP implants, we will know which make and which lot is defective and we can react," he said.

In Belgium meanwhile, the health ministry said women there had been fitted with a total of at least 674 potentially faulty breast implants made by PIP.



INDIA, Amritsar : (FILES) - A file picture shows an Indian milk man returning home after his morning round in Amritsar. More than two-thirds of Indian milk is contaminated with substances ranging from detergents to

urea and may not be safe to drink, according to a survey by an Indian government watchdog. The survey across 33 states by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) found that 68.4 percent of 1,791 milk samples in the country contained adulterants such as skim milk powder, fat and salt. Despite being the world's biggest milk producer, India is no stranger to adulterated milk. "Addition of water not only reduces the nutritional value of milk but contaminated water may also pose health risks," the study said, adding that the presence of detergent "indicates lack of hygiene and sanitation in the milk handling."

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Cholesterol meds raise diabetes risk in women: study

(AFP)--Post-menopausal women who take medication to lower their cholesterol face a higher risk of getting diabetes than women who do not take the popular drugs, known as statins, said a US study on Monday.

The risk was apparent even after researchers adjusted for variables such as age, race/ethnicity and body mass index, said the study in the Archives of Internal Medicine, a publication of the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA).

The link appeared regardless of what type of statin, or what dosage, the women were taking, said the study which included 153,000 women with an average age of 63.

The researchers from the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota called for more study on the

matter but said in the meantime there was no need to revise the guidelines for statin use in non-diabetic people, pointing out that statins aim to fix the negative heart consequences of diabetes.

"Women who are taking statins should be aware of the need to check their blood sugars, along with their liver function tests," said Suzanne Steinbaum, director of women and heart disease at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York.

"Due to the extensive use of statins in the aging female population, it is critical that more studies are done to help understand the association with statins and the development of diabetes," added Steinbaum, who was not part of the study.

Statins have been dubbed "the aspirin of the 21st century" for their perceived ben-

efits in cardiovascular health and relatively few side effects. Worldwide sales total more than \$20 billion annually.

Popularly known names such as Lipitor, Pravachol, and Crestor are among the most widely prescribed drugs in the United States. About 42 million Americans suffer from high cholesterol.

The drugs help reduce the risk of heart attack and stroke by lowering a person's low-density lipoprotein (LDL), sometimes known as "bad cholesterol."


A review published by JAMA in June 2011 showed that high doses of statins were linked to higher numbers of new diabetes cases in patients, leaving doctors to balance the benefits and risks according to each individual patient.



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SCI-TECH

Nokia declares war in US smartphone market

(AFP)--Nokia has declared war in the US smartphone market, with a Microsoft-powered handset tailored to take on Apple iPhones and Google-backed Android devices.

Microsoft chief executive Steven Ballmer joined Nokia boss Stephen Elop on Monday to unveil the new Lumia 900 smartphone, which will run on Windows mobile software and tap into a growing trove of popular mini-applications.

The two firms did not disclose the price or release date for the Lumia 900, but said it will be offered exclusively on the latest generation 4G LTE network of US telecom giant AT&T.

"We believe the industry has shifted from a battle of devices to a war of ecosystems," Elop said, in a presentation laden with martial metaphors.

"Clearly there are strong contenders on the field in this war of ecosystems," he told a room packed with press on the eve of the opening of the annual Consumer Electronics Show (CES), a massive gadgets fair in Las Vegas.

The Finland-based Nokia in October introduced the Lumia line, which Elop described as the "first real Windows phones," which had



industry colossus Electronic Arts.

Elop said Nokia planned to price Lumia 900 "aggressively" to establish a strong beachhead on the US smartphone battlefield. He said that Lumia would then land in China and Latin America to fight for market share.

"I am so happy that companies like Samsung, HTC and others are all introducing Windows devices," Elop said. "We all need to get that fly wheel spinning; our principle competition is the other ecosystems."

Nokia plans to eventually extend Windows across its full range of mobile phones and was working with Microsoft on getting mobile gadgets and computers to share pictures and other content using the Internet "cloud."

While declining to comment specifically on Research In Motion (RIM), Elop said that Nokia sees opportunity to compete in the business smartphone market, which has long been a stronghold for RIM's popular BlackBerry handset.

established "beachheads" in Europe, India, and Hong Kong.

The company planned to start the US invasion on January 11 with a Lumia 710 model that will be priced at \$49 when bought with T-Mobile service contracts.

"The work Nokia is doing around Windows phone and this third ecosystem is really going to pay off," Ballmer said, caressing a sleek Lumia 900 touchscreen handset.

"When you pick it up and love and touch and feel your Lumia," he said -- making a playful "mmmmm" sound that drew laughs -- "it really is quite fantastic."

Lumia 900 has front and rear facing cameras with Carl Zeiss photo technology and 4.3-inch high-definition displays.

Nokia showed off an array of applications made just for Lumia 900, including 20 videogames made by console

Microsoft to bring Kinect to Windows PCs



(AFP)-- Microsoft plans to bring its Kinect technology to bear on personal computers following its phenomenal success with the gesture and voice-recognition sensor in the Xbox 360 game console.

"I'm thrilled to announce that Kinect is coming to Windows on February 1," Microsoft chief executive Steve Ballmer said in his final keynote address at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES), which opens in Las Vegas on Tuesday.

"We're already working with over 200 companies on unique Kinect for Windows applications," including American Express, Mattel, Telefonica, Toyota and the United Health Group, he told a packed ballroom at the Venetian hotel on Monday.

"The breadth of what they're doing is mind-blowing," Ballmer said, without providing further details.

Microsoft has shipped more than 18 million Kinects since the Xbox peripheral went on sale just a little over

a year ago, Ballmer said.

He said there are currently 66 million Xbox users and more than 40 million subscribers to Xbox Live, which links the game console to the Internet, allowing for real-time game play but also providing access to online content.

Ballmer said the Xbox has evolved into "an entertainment hub for live TV, on demand videos, movies and news, social (networking), music and of course still games."

"Xbox is your all-in-one entertainment device for the living room," he said, adding that a partnership with News Corp. would bring Fox television channels and The Wall Street Journal to the Xbox this year.

Microsoft's plan to integrate the Kinect's voice and gesture recognition capabilities into PCs using the Windows operating system was the highlight of Ballmer's last appearance on stage at the CES.

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'Doomsday' ticks closer on nuclear, climate fears



WASHINGTON (AFP) - Global uncertainty on how to deal with the threats of nuclear weapons and climate change have forced the "Doomsday clock" one minute closer to midnight, leading international scientists said Tuesday.

"It is now five minutes to midnight," said Allison Macfarlan, chair of the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists, which created the Doomsday clock in 1947 as a barometer of how close the world is to an apocalyptic end. The last decision by the group, which includes a host of Nobel Prize winning scientists, in 2010 moved the clock a minute further away from midnight on hopes of global nuclear cooperation and the election of President Barack Obama.

However, Tuesday's decision pushes the clock back to the time where it was in 2007. "It is clear that the change that appeared to be happening at the time is not happening," said co-chair Lawrence Krauss. "Business as usual reigns the norm among world leaders."

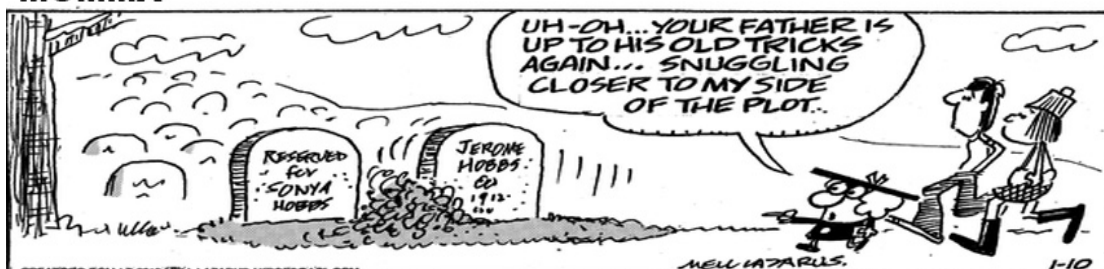
Increasing nuclear tensions, refusal to engage in global action on climate change, and a growing tendency to reject science when it comes to major world concerns were cited as key reasons for the latest tick on the clock.

COMICS

PICKLES



MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBS



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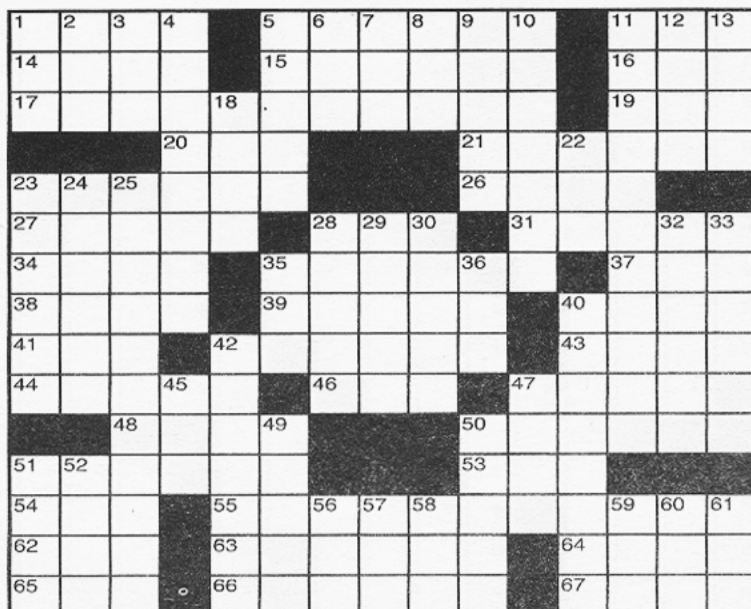
IT'S NOT HEAVY...

ACROSS

1. Opposite of ruddy
5. Ross and Rigg
11. Zimbalist TV show, with "The"
14. Guinness of "Star Wars"
15. Word after search or fire
16. Varnish ingredient
17. Stepping stealthily
19. "We Family"
20. Before, in poetry
21. "Brigadoon" extras
23. Clara of "Where's the beef?" fame
26. Arctic exploratory base
27. AKA Mary Ann Evans
28. Ear prefix
31. Logan and Raines
34. Add one's John Hancock to
35. Complained
37. One that produces: suffix
38. Old English letters
39. Was sick
40. Turkish title
41. Hanoi holiday
42. Victoria's beloved
43. Used a rifle
44. Phoenix source
46. Neighbor of Wyo.
47. The Jetsons' dog
48. 1977 Bo Derek film
50. Wit
51. Overcharges
53. Mauna

DOWN

1. Intimate friend
2. Boxer on a Wheaties reissue
3. Fetlock locale
4. Levels of command
5. Shelve
6. Odysseus's rescuer
7. Time past
8. Louse egg
9. Give last rites,
10. Tranquilized
11. Cat burglars' aids
12. Unfurnished
13. Tops a cake
18. Allowance for evaporation
22. Baseball's Maglie
23. Former Spanish coin
24. Slurs
25. Coastal structures
28. Small antelope
29. Like a mosaic
30. "The Floating" (John Barth)
32. On dry land
33. Fixed machine part
35. "Sleepy Time"
36. NYC summer clock setting
40. Alleviates
42. Climbs
45. Centimeter-gram-second unit
47. Mine, in Meudon
49. From beyond the Urals
50. Mitigate
51. Turnstile
52. River to the Baltic
56. Twelve dozen: abbr.
57. Vietnamese coin
58. County subdivisions: abbr.
59. Take this off for the flag
60. Melodic syllable
61. "Kids: All the Time in the World"



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Sudoku

8				9				4
7				6	5		3	1
6	4			3			7	
					7		5	9
2		8				1		6
		3	9		4			
			1			7		3
3		6		2	5			7
9					1			8

SOLUTION

8	9	2	5	1	7	4	3	6
7	1	6	3	2	6	9	8	5
6	4	8	9	7	1	6	5	3
2	8	3	7	5	9	1	4	6
3	6	1	4	8	2	5	7	9
9	7	5	2	6	3	1	8	4

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9.

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

Finance

Fed pays near-record billions to US Treasury

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The Federal Reserve said yesterday it had paid \$76.9 billion to the US Treasury from its estimated 2011 earnings, mainly income from interest collected on a range of securities.

The amount was only three percent below the 2010 record payment of \$79.3 billion, and reflected the extraordinary actions the Fed has taken to prop up the economy after the 2008 financial crisis.

Most of the 2011 earnings came from \$83.6 billion in interest income on government-linked securities, such as US Treasury securities, the central

bank said in a statement.

The bank's balance sheet has ballooned since the Fed launched massive asset purchases to support growth following the 2008 financial crisis that led to the worst recession in decades.

The Fed has acquired \$2.3 trillion in securities since the Lehman Brothers bankruptcy in September 2008, trying to lower long-term interest rates and support the distressed housing sector.

Under Fed policy, the 12 regional banks in the federal reserve system pay the US Treasury their net income after

certain costs are deducted, including for operations and dividend payments.

At the end of the US government's 2011 fiscal year on September 30, the federal budget deficit stood at \$1.3 trillion, about 8.7 percent of the nation's gross domestic product, a broad measure of economic output.

The Fed said the \$76.9 billion number was preliminary and based on unaudited results. Final results were to be published in the central bank's full-year audit, usually released in March.

Brazil reports record grain harvest, exports in 2011

BRASILIA (AFP) - Brazil's grain harvest hit a record-breaking 159.9 million metric tons last year while farm exports soared 24 percent to \$94.5 billion, official data released yesterday showed.

The 2011 harvest was up 6.9 percent over the previous output record set the previous year, the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) announced.

The area under grain culti-

vation in the country increased 4.7 percent to total 48.7 million hectares (120 million acres), with soybean, corn and rice making up 90 percent of production.

For 2012, IBGE forecast grain production of 160.3 million tons, virtually equal to that of 2011.

Agriculture Minister Jorge Alberto Mendes Ribeiro however said the government was hoping to see a 5.7 percent hike in farm exports over the record set last year.

Soybean, sugar and ethanol, meat, timber and coffee were the country's top exports in 2011, according to the agriculture ministry.

Key markets for Brazilian exports were Europe, China, the United States, Russia and Japan.

The southern region, particularly Parana state, is Brazil's highest grain yielding region.

Fed official: Uncertainty making joblessness worse

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - A senior Federal Reserve official said yesterday that uncertainty about the economy's direction and government policies may have increased unemployment by as much as one percentage point.

Lending weight to Republican claims that the slow recovery is due to uncertainty caused by President Barack Obama's alleged over-regulation, John Williams -- head of the San Francisco Fed -- hinted that unemployment could today be as low as 7.5 percent if there were a less murky outlook.

"Businesses are uncertain about the economic environment and the direction of economic policy. Households are uncertain about job prospects

and future incomes," Williams said in remarks prepared for a speech in Vancouver, Washington state.

"I repeatedly hear from my business contacts that these uncertainties are prompting them to slow investment and hiring."

"Economists at the San Francisco Fed calculate that uncertainty has reduced consumer and business spending so much that it has potentially added a full percentage point to the unemployment rate."

Economists are fiercely divided about the impact of uncertainty on investment, spending and other drivers of the economy. There is also considerable disagreement about how any impact would be accurately measured.

Oil exporters to up output if Iran embargoed: France

PARIS (AFP) - If Iran is hit with an oil embargo over its nuclear policy, other major exporters will increase their production in order to steady world markets, the French foreign minister said yesterday.

"Other countries are ready to increase production to avoid an effect on prices. We have made discreet contacts in this direction. The producers don't want to talk about it, but they are standing ready," Alain Juppe said.

Briefing a French parliamentary committee, Juppe said he did not share some lawmakers' pessimism over the prospects for an embargo on Iranian crude.

Several Western powers are pushing for stronger economic sanctions to be imposed on Iran's Islamic regime in order to force it to abandon a nuclear program they allege is destined to produce atomic bombs.

But China and some other major energy consumers are

opposed to any embargo that could cut off oil supplies from the Gulf and boost oil prices at a moment when the world economy is already teetering on the brink of recession.

Juppe admitted some European oil importers, including Italy and Greece, were also nervous about losing Iranian exports, but said: "We are trying to convince our partners that there are other sources of supply."

Daily Exchange Rates				
Current as of: 01/10/2012	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.73	1.75	1.77
Britain	GBP	2.69	2.74	2.80
Switzerland	CHF	187.79	188.51	189.31
Netherlands	EUR	226.05	228.12	230.41
Sweden	SEK	24.90	25.62	26.42
Denmark	DKK	29.71	30.43	31.23
Norway	NOK	28.83	29.55	30.35
Japan	JPY	229.75	231.85	234.18
(per 10,000)				
All rates for amounts up to AWG 100,000				

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

DOTS	CRAZE	SHED
ABET	HADES	TOGO
FOXYLADIES	EBON	
TET	UNIT	OPPOSE
	CLEO	SNAP
SCROLL	SPICEDUP	
TRAYS	SLAT	NATE
AERO	SLIDE	WRIT
STET	MAME	HOYLE
HEREDITY	HOLLER	
	SALE	CALF
FETTLE	AARE	PSI
AURA	DOGPADDLER	
DRAT	ARIES	REEK
SOME	TOOTS	YAKS

THE MORNING NEWS photo contest deadline extended by popular demand



THE MORNING NEWS is extending its photo contest to the end of the carnival season. The upcoming weeks filled with fabulous events will offer many great photo ops, and your pix and win you terrific prizes and the opportunity to showcase your work for all the world to see. Visit our website: www.themorningnewsaruba.com where the online edition is read by thousands to subscribe at no cost. Each day, as

the paper is put online, you will receive an link to the current edition in your e-mail inbox; there is no cost whatsoever for this service.

Just subscribing to THE MORNING NEWS online will earn you a chance to win two tickets to Bonaire with Tiara Air Aruba, and sending in your photos will earn more raffle tickets in the box and more chances to win. The contest is open to Aruban residents

and visitors alike.

Contest Rules:

1. Subscribe to THE MORNING NEWS online - it's free!!
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3. Send an e-mail to themorningnewsaruba@aol.com to inform the office of

your user name and contact info: real name, address, & phone number, and receive 1 raffle ticket

4. Like us on Facebook, and receive a second raffle ticket

5. Raffle tickets are for final drawing on Ash Wednesday 2012;

6. Grand Prize:

Airfare for two to Bonaire with Tiara Airlines and other fabulous prizes

Photo contest prizes: You must subscribe to submit

1. Send us your favorite carnival pix via e-mail or deliver to our office on Caya Betico Croes

Just across from the Valero station.

2. "Picks of the day and week" will appear in THE MORNING NEWS

3. Contest begins today and deadline for submissions of photos is Monday, February 20, 2012 at 6:00 PM; drawing for raffle will take place on Ash Wednesday, February 22.

4. Judging is final; winners will be announced in Friday's paper, February 24.

5. Each photo submis-



"THE MORNING NEWS photo contest makes me want to jump and dance!!"

sion earns a raffle ticket towards the Ash Wednesday drawing

Prizes for the Carnival photo Contest:

Grand Prize: 3 days/2 nights stay at Boardwalk Apartments

2nd Prize: Trip for two on Mi Dushi Sailboat

3rd Prize: Complete Play package at Cool Casino

Prize winners will receive additional raffle tickets towards final drawing, and a special surprise for the grand prize winning photo.

No purchase necessary to participate; subscription to THE MORNING NEWS and submission of photos are free; photos will only be used for Carnival promotion and owners retain all rights.

Spielberg shares storytelling secrets in Paris



PARIS (AFP) - Steven Spielberg caught the filmmaking bug as a 12-year-old boy, and half a century on still goes "crazy" when he doesn't have a story to tell, he admitted to fans packing a masterclass in Paris this week.

Greeted with a standing ovation, the US director -- whose works from "E.T." to "Indiana Jones" are the focus of a retrospective at Paris' Cinematheque film centre -- told the room in French, hand on his heart: "Je t'aime!"

"I'm a storyteller," the 65-year-old told the filmmaking masterclass between screen-

ings of his new film "War Horse". "For a long time movies were everything in my life -- and if I don't have a story to tell I go crazy."

"Ask my wife and my kids what's it's like to have me without a movie in my immediate future to direct!" he quipped. "I'm a terrible person to live with!"

"I mope, I walk around the house in a terrible state, I'm miserable!" Spielberg joked. "So my family is the first to call my company and say 'Is there anything in the files he can direct? Please help us!'"

Revealed to film buffs with the 1971 car chase thriller "Duel", then to the mainstream with "Jaws" in 1975, Spielberg has shot more than 30 feature films as well as a string of productions for television, from episodes of "Columbo" to the hit series "Band of Brothers" in 2001.

"I got starting making movies as a kid because I couldn't think of anything more fun to do," Spielberg recalled. "When I was 13

there was absolutely nothing that interested me more than to take a movie camera and tell a three, four minute story."

"And when I make a movie today, I get that same energy, the same excitement," he said. "I remember the same feeling at 12, 13 years old, as the feeling I still had as I turned 65. That has never gone away."

The director has been something of a work horse of late, directing the 3D blockbuster "Adventures of Tintin: Secret of the Unicorn", which hit screens in late 2011, before launching straight into "War Horse".

When in the grip of a story -- as was the case for "War Horse" which he based on a children's book by British writer Michael Morpurgo, and a play adaptation by Nick Stafford -- Spielberg works

non-stop.

"From the time we started working on the script, to the time I called action for the first time in Devon (in southwestern England), was seven months," he said, "which as you know is a very, very short time."

"That's an 'E.T.' sort of record, since 'E.T.' took seven months from the time the script was written to the time we shot."

"War Horse" tells the story of Joey, a horse raised in the bucolic English countryside who is torn away from his home -- and stable lad Albert -- and sent to France to the battlefields of World War I.

Almost deliberately old-fashioned, the movie pits noble beast against the horrors of war with sweeping, emotional set pieces that earned it a Golden Globe nomination for best dramatic

film, but has divided critics.

"I cried when I saw it on stage," Spielberg said of the work. "It's a straight narrative story. It's completely clear: I like stories that are not encumbered by excessive symbolism or metaphor."

Asked by the event host, the filmmaker Costa Gavras, to offer a tip to the aspiring filmmakers packing the audience, Spielberg said casting was key.

"First of all, the best thing you can do is to cast the right actor. If not, you have to work ten times more later."

"Once you have casted, listen to the people you casted: what do they have to bring? Let them do their work, read the books," he said. "Why cast talented people if you do not listen to them? You got to listen more than you speak."



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Fresh Grouper in Scabeche Sauce

THE MORNING NEWS taste-testing team had a very, very pleasant surprise when stopping by the newly

met eatery, Chez Mathilde, but has now realized her long-time dream of welcoming and befriending patrons



Frutti di Mare Creole in Casserole

rechristened Scabeche, located in the Caribbean Palm Villas Resort. Veteran visitors will be pleased to become

in her own charming venue. Anky has completely remodeled the lovely space within the resort, which is



Steak Tika

reacquainted with Anky, who they will recognise from her years with Aruba's top gour-

just a short walk from the Palm Beach resort area, to create a delightful ambiance

and menu reflecting her great enthusiasm for fine food and quality service. Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, after only one year they are receiving rave reviews under the original name, Caribbean Palm Restaurant. Sca-beche is homage to the unique regional cooking which is their specialty, native to Peru and other Latin countries, but with a distinctly Caribbean flavor.

We absolutely must rave about their signature dish, Catch of the Day Escabeche, moist and fresh; we had grouper in a singular sauce that has us ready to go back ASAP for another helping. We also sampled the Shrimp and Scallops appetizer and the Ceviche Aruban Style, as well as the Fruitti di Mare en Casserole, and recommend each of them highly. Scabeche is heaven for seafood lovers, but landlubbers will also be extremely pleased with the Tenderloin Tika, a HUGE steak skewer with loads of fresh vegetables.

Aside from their extremely pleasing and affordable regular menu, each night features some distinctive specialty. Monday is Carnival, with a show, Tuesday is Italian night, including a free Caesar salad, Wednesday is All You Can Eat BBQ Ribs for only \$19.95 and Thursday is Karaoke Party night with famed island entertainer Lloyd Baptiste, which features 2 for 1 drinks with free snacks from 8 to 10 p.m.

Scabeche is a welcome addition to the Palm Beach roster of restaurants and definitely deserves discovering. Diners will love the tranquil setting, excellent and friendly service, along with a very reasonably priced menu featuring several distinctive and delectable dishes.

Closed on Fridays, they also feature 2 for 1 Happy Hours 3 times a day from noon to 1 p.m., 3 to 5 p.m. and 9 to 10 p.m., tempting you to linger over a liqueur after your dinner.



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Calm and friendly atmos-

phere characterizes the apartment complex, with an invitation to enjoy a relaxing atmosphere in its different areas: in the pool under the Caribbean sun, on the terrace reading a book, preparing a good barbecue by the pool, or in your apartment with total privacy.

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Lunch Buffet

Saturday - Sunday
12:00 - 3 p.m.

Dinner

Monday - Sunday
6:00 - 11:00 p.m.

Palm Beach Center - Palm Beach Aruba - Tel: 5860944

Parma fire Colomba and hire Donadoni



ROME (AFP) - Former Italy coach Roberto Donadoni has been named the new coach of Serie A side Parma after Franco Colomba was unceremoniously dismissed following a heavy defeat.

Donadoni, who coached Italy from 2006-2008, had been out of work for six months since being fired by Cagliari during pre-season, straight after a friendly victory.

Colomba paid for Saturday's 5-0 thrashing at Inter Milan, the third time this season his side had been heavily beaten by a leading contender, following 4-1 defeats against AC Milan and Juventus.

It was a sixth game in a

row without victory, although they only lost two of those and their last success was a hugely impressive 2-0 defeat of high-flying Udinese on November 20.

Colomba thus became the 11th coach to lose his job in Italy's Serie A already this season.

Cagliari and Palermo lead the way with two coaching changes and both fired coaches before the start of the league season.

Inter replaced Gian Piero Gasperini with Claudio Ranieri after just four matches in the most high-profile sacking.

Although a former Italy coach, Donadoni has had little success as a club manager.

He previously coached Livorno, Genoa and Napoli, as well as Cagliari in the top flight without achieving anything remarkable.

He guided Italy to Euro 2008 before losing to eventual winners Spain on penalties in the quarter-finals, after which he was dismissed to allow World Cup-winning coach Marcello Lippi to return.

Argentina, Brazil, set for New Jersey friendly

PARIS (AFP) - South American giants Argentina and Brazil will face off in an international friendly in New Jersey, United States, on June 9, the Argentine Football Federation announced on Tuesday.

The high profile fixture is being staged in the 80,000-seater MetLife Stadium, more commonly used for games between New York's American football sides the Giants and the Jets.

A week earlier, Argentina confront Ecuador in the fifth round of qualifying for the 2014 World Cup hosted by

Brazil.

Argentina have another friendly arranged for November 14 against Saudi Arabia in Riyadh.

Under new coach Alejandro Sabella, Argentina got off to a mediocre start to their World Cup qualifiers.

They suffered an embarrassing loss to Venezuela but their recent win over Colombia put them on a more even keel and they are now level on points with regional group leaders Uruguay - albeit having played a game more - and Venezuela.

Team Thrill Walkers rejoices over successful activity!



Last Sunday, January 3rd. The 5.5-K United Walk & Run 2012, organized by Thrill Walkers S.V. resulted in a splendid event, thanks to the tremendous work of all the members who participated.

The more than 350 walk-



ers and runners made the event a whopping success from start to finish.

The event began sharply at 5:30 pm with every athlete beginning the 5.5km run through the area of Sombre, Cas Ariba, Seroe Compa, Cadushi Largo, Caba Lodo and Angochi. The runners considered this route an excellent choice. It was an opportunity to begin the year with bodies in condition as they tracked through the picturesque nature and fresh air of the area. Even motorists were very attent and respected the runners on the road.

Along the route there were those prepared to refresh the runners with water, Power-Ade, watermelons, bananas, etc, and when they got to the finish line.

Winners of the running team:

The first masculine runner to cross the finish line was Jean Andrew Fingal, who did this in 20:06 minutes. This earned him the gold medal. In second place was Alric Kock who came in after 20:14 minutes. This earned him the silver medal. Third place winner was Joel Dirks who did the run in 21:40 minutes and earned him the bronze medal.

In the female division, the first lady to reach the finish line was Chantal Stephens

who did the run in 25:25 minutes, which earned her the gold medal. Second place female runner was Julienn Dorothal who finished the race in 28:41 minutes to receive the

silver medal.

Coming in third place was Iraida Dorothal who finished the run in 30:10 minutes to earn the bronze medal.

Winners of the walking

team:

First place walker to finish in 33:43 minutes was Jimmy Leon for the men's team. This earned him the gold medal. In second place with a time span of 34:40 minutes was Fernando de Graaf who won the silver medal. Third place winner in the men's walking group was Nelson Feliciano who came in at 34:48 minutes to earn the bronze medal.

In the ladies section, Liza Geerman became the first place winner with a time span of 39:26 minutes and for which she earned the gold medal. In second place with a time span of 41:47 minutes to reach the finish line, was Carol Larmonie which earned her the silver medal. Then, in third place with a time span of 43:11 minutes was Chichi Tromp for which she won the bronze medal.

Door Prizes:

The evening was also replete with several attractive door prizes. There were meal vouchers, Cinema tickets, cases of Malta and Power-Ade, baskets of products, Gift Certificates and a grand prize which was an air ticket to Curacao by Tiara Air, our national airline. The grand prize was won by the lucky Clinton Quandt. Thrill Walkers S.V. was especially pleased and grateful to all who contributed in making the event such a success.

Special thanks went to Eric Gomez who helped with material for the event, also to the Police who coordinated, controlled and guided the traffic so that every participant could have walked freely. The Emergency Response Brigade also did a fantastic job.

Thrill Walkers is already planning their next event scheduled for July 1st, 2012, which will be held early in the morning....the very popular "Nature Walk." Then, on September 9th 2012 will be the next big event of Thrill Walkers N.V. for the entire community to continue "Moving for your Health."



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Mourning Packers dedicate game to coach's late son

GREEN BAY (AFP) - Green Bay Packers players will dedicate their efforts in Sunday's NFL playoff game to Michael Philbin, the son of offensive coordinator Joe Philbin who was found dead on Monday.

The body of Michael Philbin, 21, was pulled from the Fox River on Monday by police who had been searching for him since he was reported missing on Sunday night after visiting friends.

It was uncertain whether or not Joe Philbin would work with the Packers this week as they prepare to face the visiting New York Giants, but the reigning Super Bowl champions were set to rally together in the wake of the tragedy.

"The Packer organization is truly a family-first environment. We feel for the Philbin family," Packers linebacker Clay Matthews told ESPN Radio on Tuesday.

"It goes without saying that this game, and how we approach it, and how we play, will definitely be dedicated to him. Hopefully we do it the right way."

"Our thoughts and prayers are with Joe, his wife, Diane, and the Philbin family as they cope with their loss," Packers general manager Ted Thompson said. "This is an emotional and difficult time for them and we ask that everyone respect their privacy."

"All of us in the Packers family share in their grief."

Yi joins Mavericks, ready for NBA return

DETROIT (AFP) - Yi Jianlian joined the reigning NBA champion Dallas Mavericks for his first workout on Tuesday, the 24-year-old Chinese forward declaring himself ready for the challenge of the NBA campaign.


One day after the Mavericks visited US President Barack Obama at the White House to celebrate last June's NBA Finals triumph over Miami, they welcomed Yi into a workout to prepare for a game later Tuesday at Detroit.

"I will be ready to play," Yi said.

The 7-foot forward, who helped China win last year's Asian Championship and a berth in this year's London Olympics, averaged 23 points, 12 rebounds and two blocked shots in two games with the minor-league Texas Legends last weekend.

Yi, the sixth pick in the 2007 NBA Draft, will suit up for his fourth NBA team when the Mavericks face the 2-7 Pistons, having previously played for the Milwaukee Bucks, New Jersey Nets and Washington Wizards.

The Mavericks, 4-5, seek their first road triumph of the season.



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Hue is through as coach of Raiders

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - Hue Jackson was fired as coach of the NFL's Oakland Raiders on Tuesday after the team missed the playoffs for the ninth season in a row, losing four of its last five games after a 7-4 start.

New general manager Reggie McKenzie, hired last week by the Raiders, began a housecleaning by dumping Jackson after a season in which the team set NFL records for penalties committed and penalty yards allowed this season.

Jackson served only one season in the job after being promoted from Raiders' offensive coordinator into the

top post following the firing of Tom Cable after the 2010 campaign.

The Raiders finished 8-8 to match Denver and San Diego for the best record in the AFC West division but lost out on a playoff spot on tie-breakers to Denver.

Jackson's biggest move came when he sent numerous NFL Draft selections to Cincinnati to obtain unhappy Bengals quarterback Carson Palmer after Oakland's Jason Campbell was lost.

McKenzie had been director of football operations for the reigning Super Bowl champion Green Bay Packers before joining the Raiders.

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Alabama captures US college football title

(AFP)-- Jeremy Shelley kicked five field goals to lift the University of Alabama over Louisiana State University 21-0 to win the US collegiate American football national championship game.

The Bowl Championship Series title game triumph at the Superdome in New Orleans was the sixth in a row by a team from the Southeastern Conference and the second crown in three seasons for Alabama's Crimson Tide.

Louisiana State edged Alabama 9-6 in over-time on November 5 when they met in the regular season and the Tigers finished the campaign unbeaten to top the rankings with Alabama finishing second to earn a rematch in the title game.

The Crimson Tide, whose only penalty came with less than three minutes to play, made the most of their second chance and enjoyed their first shutout victory in a bowl game since 1963.

"It was a great team win," Alabama coach Nick Saban said. "Our defense did a great job. Our offense controlled the momentum of this game from start to finish."

The Tigers were thwarted in their bid for a second crown in five seasons in the last of 35 bowl games for large US college gridiron teams, whose television contracts produce millions of dollars in revenues for schools.

"We just out-physicaled them," Alabama defender Courtney Upshaw said.

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